GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3008
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
PURCHASE OF DUPLICATORS OFFSET MACHINES
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Directorate of Printing had purchased 49 Nos. Duplicators/Offset machines at a cost of Rs.5.09 Crore between 1990 to 1998;

(b) if so, the justification for procurement of these machines/Duplicators;

(c) the reasons for not achieving full rated capacity;

(d) whether in respect of 24 machines, the CAG Investigating team have assessed the percentage of capacity utilisation that ranged from 4.67 per cent to 36.82 per cent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKR)

(a)&(b): A special Investigation team of Audit had, in their Report, observed that Directorate of Printing had purchased 49 machines valuing Rs.5.09 crores during January 1990 to March 1998 for various Government of India Presses. These machines included various pre-printing and post-printing machines besides the Duplicators and offset machines. Out of this, the cost of Duplicators/Offset machines was about Rs.3 crores. Digital Duplicators/Offset Machines were purchased for modernization/ upgradation of printing facilities available with various Government of India Presses.

(c)to(e): The special investigation team of Audit had assessed percentage capacity utilization of 24 machines in the range of 4.67% to 36.82%. The Audit had assessed this capacity utilization on the basis of `Rated capacity` calculated by multiplying maximum speed of the machine with total annual working hours. It has been clarified to the Audit that `capacity Utilization` is worked out with reference to `Annual Assessed capacity` of the machine and not with respect to the `Rated capacity` since the maximum speed can only be achieved in ideal conditions, which do not exist in practice. The speed at which a particular machine can be run depends on the nature of job and various other factors besides erosion in the operational efficiency of the machine with passes of time. The `Annual Assessed Capacity` of the machines is assessed at regular intervals and it keeps on changing with passage of time. The Audit has been apprised about this on 7.8.2001 and no further comments have so far been received from the Audit.